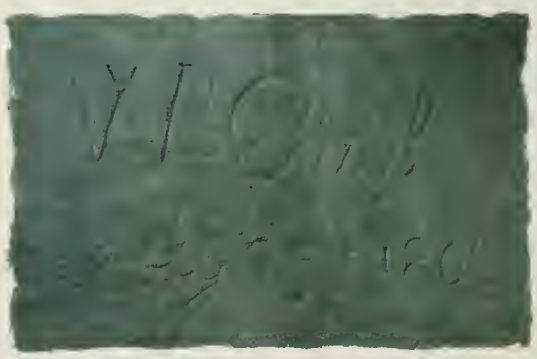
January/February 1996 $2.00

MONTANA OUTDOORS

Special Photo Issue

Sluice Boxes State Park
Larry Javorsky



Captain William Clark's signature on Pompey's Pillar
Jeff & Alexa Henry

MONTANA OUTDOORS

January/February 1996
Volume 27, Number 1

We Montanans hold Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark in high regard. Their 4,134-mile outward journey west—190 years ago—has been rightfully called America's national epic of exploration. More recently, ecologist Daniel B. Botkin, in his book *Our Natural History: The Lessons of Lewis and Clark*, says the expedition "was the greatest wilderness trip ever recorded."

In this always anxiously awaited edition of *Montana Outdoors*, you will find exquisite photos of the places, the rivers, and the animals these extraordinary explorers encountered on their trek through what would become known as Montana. If the captains had been able to photograph their journey, I suspect many of the images within could have figured prominently in their journals.

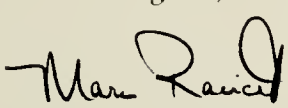
"The object of your mission is to explore the Missouri River," President Thomas Jefferson instructed Lewis and Clark. "You will take observations of latitude and longitude, at all remarkable points on the river and especially at the mouths of rivers, at rapids, at islands, and other places and objects distinguished by such natural marks and characters, of a durable kind, as that they may with certainty be recognized hereafter."

Herein you will find the same remarkable buffalo jumps, the same rock formations, the same rivers and canyons, and the same wildlife Lewis and Clark found so amazing and so exotic.

And you will find what is to me an equally amazing facility with the English language. In this issue, the *Montana Outdoors* staff has transformed the explorers' often straightforward observations into a kind of lyric poetry.

Our world has changed in nearly 200 years, that's for certain. But you have in your hands a document showing that the wild and natural heritage of Montana is still largely intact. Find a comfortable chair, and come visit today's Montana with yesterday's greatest guides.

Warm regards,



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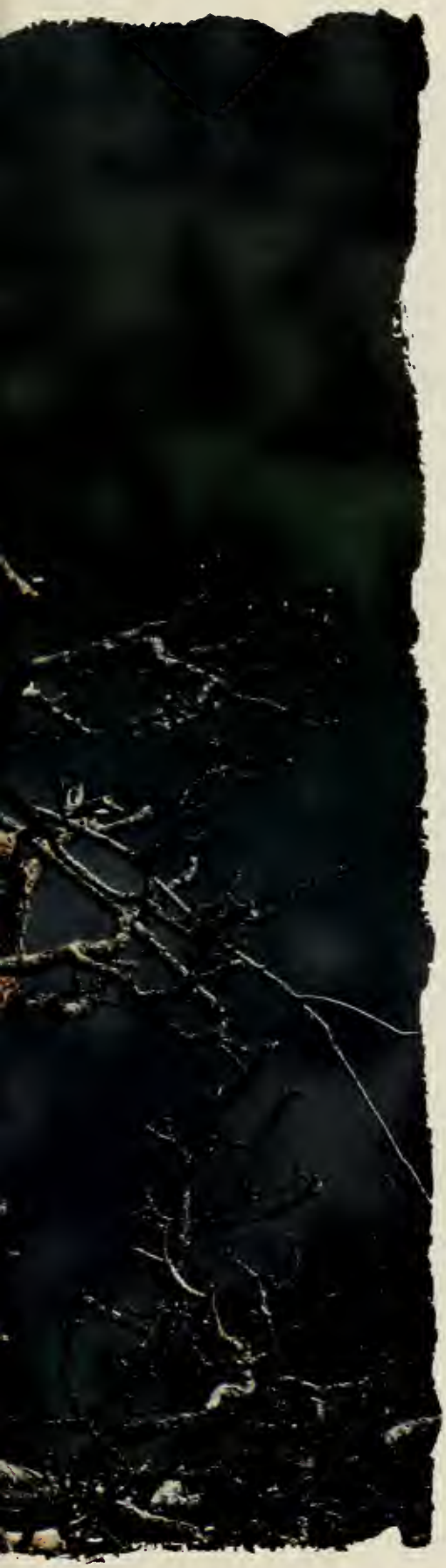
Front cover
Whitetail doe
Donald M. Jones

Back cover
Montana cowgirl
Mike Barlow



Bald eagle
Milo Burcham

Below the mouth of the Yellowstone, 1805

There are **geese** in abundance,
and more **bald eagles**
than we have hitherto observed;
the **nest** of these
last being always accompanied by
those of two or three magpies, which are
their inseparable attendants.

Gray wolf
Denver Bryan

Near the mouth of
Big Muddy Creek, 1805

We are surrounded
with **deer**, elk,
buffalo, antelopes,
and their companions
the **wolves**,
which have become
more numerous and
make great ravages
among them.
The hills are here much
more **rough**
and high,
and almost overhang
the banks of the river.

Mule deer buck
Rodney Schlecht

Antelope
Michael J. Wolf

Near the mouth of the Musselshell River, 1805

The geese have their **young**;

the elk begin to produce their young;

the **antelope** and deer as yet have not;

the small species of whippoorwill

begins to cry;

blackbirds,

both large and small,

have appeared.

Yellow-headed blackbird
Donald M. Jones

Mouth of the Judith River, 1805

The **water** is clearer than any
which we have yet seen; and the low grounds,
as far as we could discern,
are wider and more woody
than those of the **Missouri**....
There was a great abundance
of the argali or **big-horned**
animal in the high country
through which it passes,
and a great number of
beaver in its waters.

Beaver
Mike Barlow

Bighorn ram
Mike Barlow

Ulm Pishkun State Park
Chuck Haney

Near the mouth of Arrow Creek, 1805

On the north we passed a **precipice**
about 120 feet high,
under which lay scattered
the fragments
of at least 100 **carcasses** of buffaloes....
These buffaloes had been
chased down the precipice in a
way very common on the
Missouri, by which vast **herds** are
destroyed in a moment.

Bison bones
Jeff & Alexa Henry

Bison herd
Michael J. Wolf

Missouri River rock formations
John Laubing

White cliffs of the Missouri, 1805

These hills and river-cliffs exhibit a most extraordinary

and **romantic** appearance. They rise

in most places nearly perpendicular

from the water, to the height of between 200 and 300 feet,

and are formed of very white **sandstone**....

In trickling down the cliffs, the water has worn the soft sandstone

into a thousand grotesque figures,

among which, with a little fancy, may be discerned elegant ranges

of freestone **buildings**, with columns variously sculptured....

Wild and Scenic Missouri River
John Lambing

Mountain bluebird
Donald M. Jones

Western meadowlarks
Richard Mousel

Near the mouth of the Marias River, 1805

We saw on the plains...

a number of

small birds....

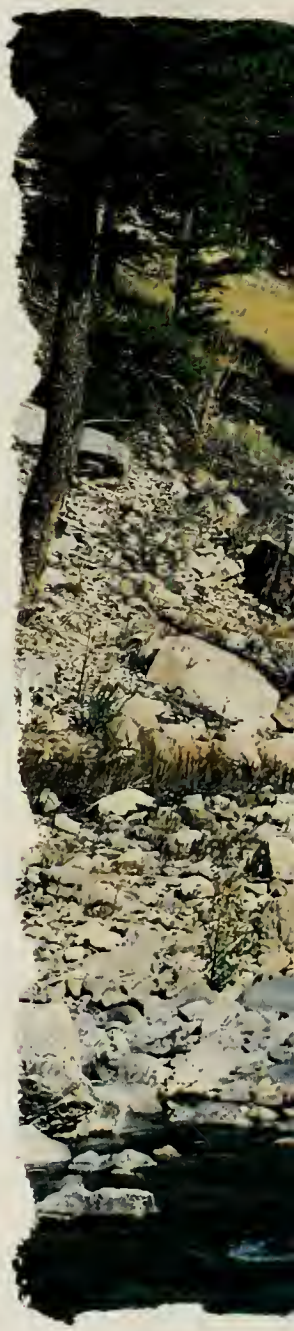
There is also a species of lark,

much resembling the bird called the old-field lark,

with a yellow breast

and a black spot on the crop....

Bull elk
Dusan Smetana



Mouth of the Sun River, 1805

Captain **Lewis...**

in the afternoon

went down in a canoe to **Medicine** river,

to look after the three men

who had been sent thither to hunt on the 19th....

at the distance

of five miles he found one of them...

where he had killed seven deer...

but had killed no **elk**,

the animal chiefly wanted.

Sun River Canyon
Gail Jackson

Cabela's

Goose hunter
Mike Barlow

Grizzly bear
Dave McGee

Near the Great Falls, 1805

The **white bears**

have now become

exceedingly troublesome;

they constantly infest our camp during the night,

and though they have not **attacked** us...

we are obliged to sleep with our arms by our sides

for **fear** of accident, and we cannot

send one man alone to any distance,

particularly if he has to pass

through brushwood.

Central Montana prairie
John Lambing

Missouri River headwaters, 1805

Near the **Three Forks** we saw

many collections of mud-nests of the small martin,

attached to the smooth faces of the

limestone rock, where they were

sheltered by projections

of the rock above it.

In the meadows were numbers of the duck or

mallard with their young,

now nearly grown.

The hunters returned toward evening with

six **deer**, three **otter**,

and a muskrat; they had seen great

numbers of antelopes, and much sign

of the beaver and elk.

Whitetail buck
Donald M. Jones

River otters
Steve Torna

Talking it over
Dusan Smetana

Rainbow trout
Denver Bryan

Missouri River headwaters, 1805

We were therefore

induced to discontinue

the name of Missouri,

and gave to the southwest branch the name

of **Jefferson**,

in honor of the President

of the United States

and the projector of the enterprise.

We called the middle branch **Madison**,

after James Madison,

Secretary of State.

These two,

as well as **Gallatin** river, run with great

velocity and throw out

large bodies of water.

Missouri Headwaters State Park
Tim Egan

Chipmunk
Mike Logan

The larger species [red-necked **grebe**]...

have a short tail; their color

is also a uniform brick

reddish-brown;

the beak is straight and pointed...

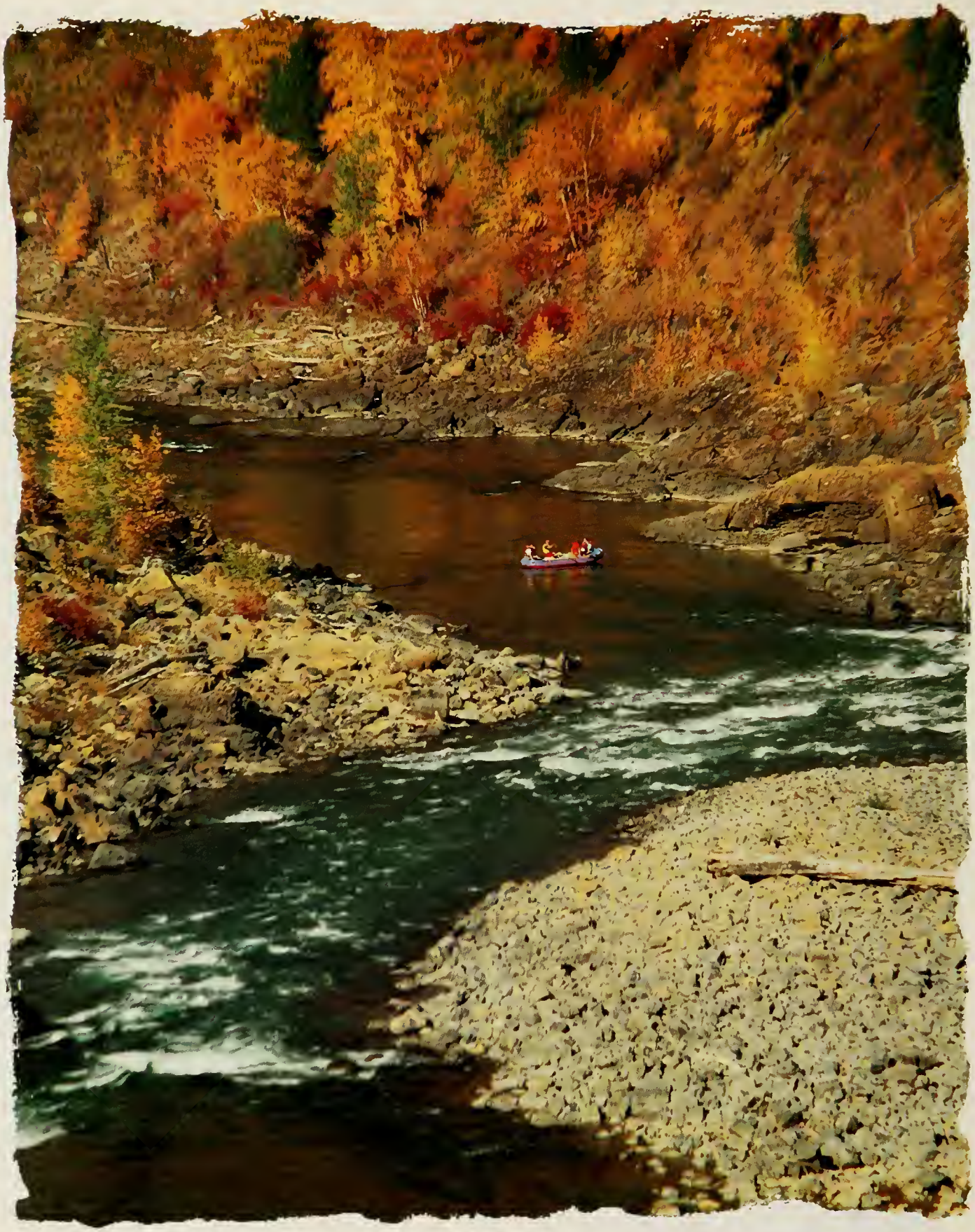
the legs remarkably thin and flat,

one edge being in front. The food...

is **fish**, and their flesh

is unfit for use.

Red-necked grebe
Donald M. Jones



Middle Fork of the Flathead River
Jeff A. Nelson

Clouds over Castle Reef, Rocky Mountain Front
Chuck Haney

Mountain wildflowers
Tom J. Ulrich

Como Peaks, Bitterroot Mountains
Mark Lagerstrom

Bitterroot Valley, 1806

The valley became more beautiful

as we proceeded, and was

diversified by a number

of small open plains, abounding with grass

and a variety of

sweet-scented **plants**,

and watered by ten streams which rush from the

western mountains with

considerable velocity.

The **mountains** themselves

are covered with snow about one-fifth

from the top,

and some snow is still

to be seen on the high **points**

and in the hollows of the mountains to the eastward.

Mt. Henry Summit, Glacier National Park
Chuck Haney

Mountain goats
Jim Mepham

Bitterroot Valley, 1806

...there are great numbers

of the white buffalo

or mountain sheep [mountain goats]

on the snowy heights of the mountains

west of Clark's river. They generally inhabit

the rocky and most inaccessible

parts of the mountains....

Mouth of the Tongue River, 1806

In the evening they **camped**

on the left, opposite the entrance

of a stream called by the Indians

Lazeka, or **Tongue** river.

It has a very wide bed

and a channel of water 150 yards wide;

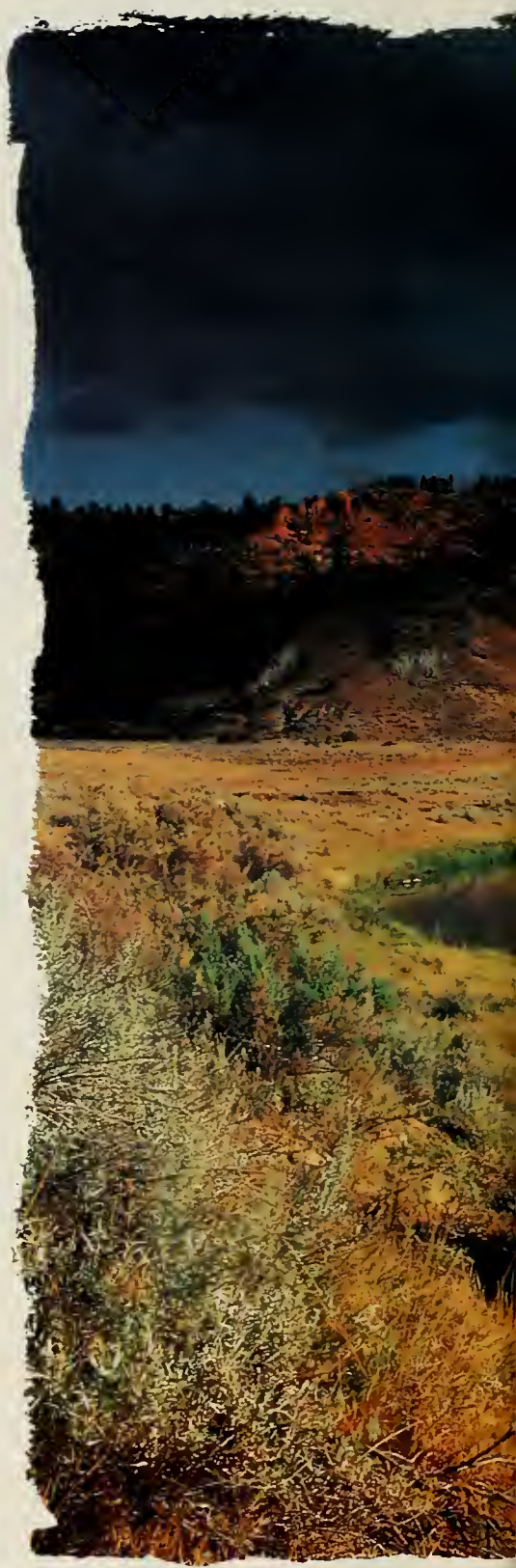
but the water is of a light brown color,

very **muddy**,

and nearly milk-warm; it is shallow,

and its rapid current throws out great quantities of

mud and some coarse gravel.



Tongue River
John Lambing

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